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Many Baffling Questions Still Face Panel Investigating Assassination

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BY ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

In grappling with the still - far - from - resolved mystery of who and what was behind Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy, the special investigating commission is now focusing much thought and effort on a series of baffling questions.

These significant questions have surged to the fore as a direct result of the weeks of testimony and evidence compiled by the commission so far. This information, while shedding some light on the key enigma of the motivation behind the murder, has raised more questions than have been answered.

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Primary reason is that these salient questions deal with a phase of the killer's life that is still murky and unexplained—the three years he spent in Russia as an avowed defector, and official U.S. records on his strange case and what happened to him.

Whether the commission will ever get any clarifying answers remains to be seen. It hasn't so far, and apparently has a long way to go.

That is evidenced by the time and attention the probers are concentrating on these matters. Also by the witnesses slated to appear at closed-door sessions in the near future.

They include FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Central Intelligence Director John McCone, and Mrs. Ruth Paine, who befriended the Oswalds, particularly his Russian wife, before and after the assassination.

Another possible witness is Yuri Nossenko, the high-ranking secret police official who recently defected in Geneva and was granted U.S. asylum.

Nossenko might be in a position to know quite a bit about Oswald and his widow, Marina. Nossenko was in the "American section" of KGB, which afforded him access to plans and operations of Soviet agents in the U.S.

Mrs. Paine is considered by commission members as a potentially key witness.

They point out she was on close terms with the Oswalds, particularly the widow, months before the assassination. Also that she befriended Mrs. Oswald after the murder, but that lately coolness has developed between them. The probers are curious about that, and want to know the reason.

A well-informed and energetic Quaker, Mrs. Paine has been active in liberal causes, among them furthering U.S.-Soviet relations. She is credited as having talked with Oswald about his views and activities.

How much light Mrs. Paine can or will shed on the salient questions being pondered by the commission is conjectural. In substance, these unresolved puzzles boil down to the following:

How and why Oswald and his wife apparently had no difficulty in meeting and going around together, although Russians are required to immediately report to police any association they have with foreigners.

How and why Oswald was able to marry Marina with such apparent lack of difficulty. Other foreigners have encountered great obstacles in marrying Russians, particularly in taking them out of the country. But there is no evidence Oswald had any trouble at all in marrying Marina, and obtaining permission for them to leave the Soviet.

How and why Oswald was able to get a job that paid him about twice what his wife was making. Although basically unskilled, he quickly secured employment at $88 a week as a so-called radio technician. Marina, with the equivalent of a junior college education and a trained laboratory technician, received only $46 a week. The probers view these facts as particularly unusual and far from coincidental.

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What U.S. authorities in the Moscow embassy did about Oswald, especially in view of his announced defection and desire to renounce his American citizenship. Was a check made on Oswald? Was a report submitted to the State Department, and if so what was done about it? Were the CIA, FBI and Secret Service informed? The commission has no indication that was done, and wants to know why.

Also deeply interesting the investigators are the whereabouts and activities of Jack Ruby, slayer of Oswald, on the day of the assassination.

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